

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /076 W
----- 001352

P R 070845Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7472

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0022

REFS: (A) GABORONE 0014, (B) 75 GABORONE 1804, (C) GABORONE 1801,
(D) 75 GABORONE 1800, (E) 75 GABORONE 1722,
(F) 75 GABORONE 1713, (G) 75 GABORONE 1674 (H) 75 GABORONE 1612,
(I) 75 GABORONE 1600, (J) 75 GABORONE 1570, (K) 75 GABORONE 1549

1. BOTSWANA MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, A.M. MOGWE, ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS S.A. MPUCHANE AND SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT L. M. J. LEGWAILA, DEPARTED BY ROAD MORNING OF JANUARY 6 FOR JOHANNESBURG FOR FLIGHT TO ADDIS AND OAU PRELIMINARY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. ACCORDING TO JANUARY 6 EDITION OF GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, PRESIDENT KHAMA AND JUNIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY J.P. MAMELODI WILL DEPART FOR ADDIS JANUARY 9 FOR OAU SUMMIT.

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2. WE JUDGE THAT DELEGATION DEPARTS WITH POSITION GENERALLY

ALONG LINES THAT GOB HAS BEEN HOLDING SINCE MID-NOVEMBER, I.E., SUPPORT FOR THE OAU EFFORT IN ANGOLA: (A) TO HAVE ALL FOREIGN FORCES REMOVED, (B) TO OBTAIN A CEASEFIRE, AND (C) TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE THREE FACTIONS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. HOWEVER, JUNIOR MEMBERS OF DELEGATION HAVE PUBLICALLY QUALIFIED THIS POLICY RECENTLY BY SAYING THAT: "THIS IS THE POLICY AS IT STANDS NOW (REF A)." BASED ON EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH MPUCHANE AND LEGWAILA, CHARGE' GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE YOUNGER OFFICIALS ARE NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH CURRENT BOTSWANA EVEN-HANDED POLICY OF OPPOSING BOTH SOVIET/CUBAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION (REF C).

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESIDENT KHAMA AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED THEIR CONCERN OVER RUSSIAN INTEFEION AND THEIR HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ANGOLA (E.G. REFS F AND G). ALSO, BECAUSE OF CLOSE TIES WITH ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA' OLDER, MORE CONSERVATIVE SENIOR LEADERSHIP WILL TEND TO SUPPORT KAUNDA'S INTERESTS. APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME COORDINATION DURING THE ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER'S DECEMBER 26 CALL ON PRESIDENT KHAMA (REF D).

4. HOWEVER, BOTSWANA HAS MAINTAINED A VERY LOW PROFILE ON ANGOLA, ISSUING NO FORMAL OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENTS AND WITHHOLDING ANY SIGNS OF SUPPORT FOR ANY OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. PUBLIC COMMENTS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO A CRITICISM OF ALL THREE PARTIES IN THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF KHAMA'S NOVEMBER 24 STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT (REF H) AND AN INTERVIEW IN MID-NOVEMBER WITH THE DAILY NEWS BY MINISTER MOGWE IN WHICH HE HPED ALL THREE MOVEMENTS COULD GET TOGETHER (REF J). ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, WE JUDGE, THEREFORE, THAT BOTSWANA WILL GO TO THE SYMPATHETIC TO ZAMBIA'S INTERESTS, IT WILL TEND TO FOLLOW THE OAU MAJORITY.

5. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM AN OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICIAL THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR BASED IN LUSAKA MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO SEROWE ON JANUARY 5 TO VISIT PRESIDENT KHAMA. THE OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT THE SOVIET'S CALL CERTAINLY MUST HAVE DEALTH WITH ANGOLA BUT HE SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION ON DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS OR POLICY OUTCOMES, IF ANY.
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THOMSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO00022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-1276
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760180/aaaactkv.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 14, 75 GABORONE 1804, 75 GABORONE 1801
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING DELEGATIONS FOR OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA
TAGS: PORG, AO, BT, OAU, (MOGWE, A M), (MPUCHANE, S A), (LEGWAILA, M J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006